(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Due to the impact of the shortfall in production in Kenya, which is a CTC producing country, the Tea Board is concentrating in the short-run on countries which import CTC tea. These include Pakistan, Egypt and the United Kingdom. The Government is also taking measures to boost the export of tea to all destinations which include carrying out promotional activities in foreign markets, lending support to Indian tea exporters in their marketing efforts, participation in international fairs and exhibitions, and buyer-seller meets, media publicity and exchange of tea delegations between India and tea importing countries.

For ensuring the availability of export quality Orthodox tea in adequate quantities, the Government has sanctioned a new Scheme which is being financed from the Special Fund set up with the collections of AED on tea for incentivising the production of Orthodox tea/incremental volume of Orthodox tea for the period from January 2005 to March 2007.

The Government has also approved continuance of the scheme for assisting tea exports towards meeting additional transport and handling charges incurred for tea exported through the Inland Containing Depot (I.C.D.), Amingaon in Assam during the remaining period of the tenth Plan. Other promotional measures taken include reduction of the import duty on tea bagging and packaging machinery to a rate of 5% and issuance of a new Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, 2005 to maintain quality and retain the brand equity of Indian tea.

Passage of goods between India and Bangladesh

192. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangladesh and India have agreed to make mutually beneficial arrangement for the passage of goods between places in one country through the territory of the other;

(b) if so, the areas and the goods identified for this purpose; and

(c) the trade likely to be registered between the two countries during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per Article VIII of the Trade Agreement signed on 21st March, 2006

in New Delhi by India and Bangladesh, the two Governments have agreed to "make mutually beneficial arrangements for the use of their waterways, railways, and roadways for commerce beween the two countries and for the passage of goods between two places in one country through the territory of the other". Such a provision has always been there in the trade agreements between the two countries starting from the first one signed in New Delhi on March 28, 1972.

(b) As a corollary to the above referred Article, the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between India and Bangladesh provides for transhipment of goods through and to Bangladesh through riverine route.

There is no transportation of goods permitted by railways and roadways between two places in one country through the territory of the other.

The Bilateral Trade Agreement provides for imports and exports of commodities and goods produced or manufactured in India or Bangladesh, as the case may be, in accordance with the import/export and foreign exchange regulations enforced in either country. There is no restriction on the trading of merchandise goods through the inland water routes.

(c) During the last year *viz.* 2005-06, the volume of bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh was US$ 1751.20 million and it is expected that during the current financial year *viz.* 2006-07, the volume of bilateral trade between the two countries would further increase. However, it is difficult to quantify the same at this stage.

Promotion to exporting firms

193. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Government's schemes to promote the exporting firms in the country;

(b) the funds allocated under these schemes during the last three years and thereafter, scheme-wise, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have done any review of these schemes;

(d) if so, when and the results thereof; and